

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 00134 110013Z

70

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 COA-01

COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSF-01 NSC-05

NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 SS-15 SP-02 FEA-01 DLOS-03 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 INT-05 SMI-01 /090 W

----- 126478

P R 100955Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1812

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CNO WASHDC

CINCPAC FLEET MAKALAPA

CINCPAC HON HI

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0134

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PLOS EWWT SENV TGEN SN

SUBJ: OIL LEAKAGE FROM JAPANESE TANKER IN SINGAPORE STRAITS

REF: SINGAPORE 0117

SUMMARY:

SLICK FROM JAPANESE SUPERTANKER SHOWA MARU OIL SPILL DISPERSING TO SCATTERED PATCHES, LESSENING POLLUTION THREAT TO SINGAPORE SHORELINE. HOWEVER, GOS REPORTS SIGNS OF POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO MAINR LIFE. GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN FACT-FINDING TEAM HAS ARRIVED TO INSPECT ACCIDENT SITE AND REVIEW SITUATION WITH PORT OF SINGAPORE AUTHORITY (PSA). INDONESIAN EMBASSY CALLS FOR SPECIAL MEETING OVER INCIDENT AMONG SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA.

1. POLLUTION THREAT TO SINGAPORE'S WESTERN SHORELINE LESSENNED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SINGAP 00134 110013Z

TODAY AS SLICK HAS BEGUN TO DISPERSE TO SCATTERED PATCHES OUT-

SIDE PORT AREA. PORT OF SINGAPORE AUTHORITY STILL CLOSELY OBSERVING MOVEMENT OF SLICK BUT OPTIMISTIC THAT ITS ANTI-POLLUTION EFFORTS HAVE WON THE BATTLE. PSA PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THIS MORNING THAT ONLY ONE PSA VESSEL REMAINED IN OPERATION AND THIS WAS LOCATED NEAR THE GROUNDING SUPER TANKER TO OBSERVE SLICK MOVEMENTS AND TIDAL CONDITIONS. ALL OTHER PSA CRAFT WITHDRAWN TO OBSERVATION POINTS ALONG WESTERN SHORLINE AND SEVERAL OFFSHORE ISLANDS. MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT TASK FORCE REMAINS ON ALERT FOR POSSIBLE SHORE CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS BUT IN LESSER NUMBERS.

2. CONCERN APPEARS TO BE MOUNTING, HOWEVER, OVER POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS TO NURSERY AND BREEDING GROUNDS OF MARINE LIFE THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN SHORE AREA. PRIMARY PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRY OF LAW AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT HAS LAUNCHED STUDY OF SITUATION. IN STATEMENT REPORTED IN PRESS TODAY, THE MINISTRY NOTES THAT THOUGH NO EXTENSIVE DAMAGE OBSERVED, OIL AS WELL AS DETERGENTS ARE KNOWN TO AFFECT PLANKTONIC ORGANISMS AND SEDENTARY AND SLUGGISH FORMS OF MARINE LIFE. PRIMARY PRODUCTION DEPT PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN POSTED ALONG SHORELINE TO TEST AND OBSERVE EFFECTS TO SEASHORE LIFE AND HAVE ALSO ACCOMPANIED PSA DETERGENT SPRAYING OPERATIONS FOR PURPOSE OF TAKING DEEP-WATER SAMPLES OF SLICK AREAS TO TEST MARINE ECOLOGY. PSA OFFICIAL REPORTS THAT MAIN CONCERN AFTER INITIAL OBSERVATIONS AND TESTS IS SECONDARY EFFECTS OF CHEMICAL DETERGENT DISPERSEMENTS PRESENT IN THE WATER.

3. TWO-MAN TEAM FROM GOJ LED BY TRANSPORT MINISTRY OFFICIAL CHOJI TOMITA ARRIVED IN SINGAPORE EVENING OF JAN 8. PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON ACCIDENT LIMITED SO FAR TO EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE FOR GOS EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE POLLUTION DAMAGE. TOMITA HAS STRESSED THAT PURPOSE OF VISIT ON SITE INSPECTION OF TANKER DAMAGE AND FACT FINDING ONLY, AND HE IS APPARENTLY NOT AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS COMPENSATION WITH GOS. ACCORDING TO JAPANESE EMBOFF MIKIO MORIMOTO, WHO IS COORDINATING THE OIL SPILL PROBLEM FOR THE EMBASSY AND IN CHARGE OF THE GOJ VISITORS, TOMITA SO FAR HAS MET ONLY WITH PSA PORTMASTER AND OTHER PSA OFFICIALS. TOMITA SCHEDULED REMAIN IN SINGAPORE UNTIL SUNDAY PENDING OFFLOADING OF REMAINING OIL AND SUCCESSFUL REFLOATING OF TANKER. MORIMOTO DID NOT OFFER COMMENTS ON REPORTED INDONESIAN CALL FOR JOINT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SINGAP 00134 110013Z

MEETING OF INDONESIAN, MALAYSIAN AND SINGAPORE OFFICIALS, TO DISCUSS JOINT COMPENSATION CLAIMS AND REVIEW UNRESTRICTED PASSAGE AND SAFETY MEASURES NOW IN EFFECT.

4. GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA HAS DISPATCHED A TEAM HEADED BY PROF. DR. KARDONO TO THE ACCIDENT SITE. PRESS REPORTS SHOW MARU LYING IN INDONESIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS ABOUT 1,000 METERS WEST BUFFALO ROCK. IN PRESS RELEASE ISSUED YESTERDAY INDONESIAN EMBASSY NOTES

THT A LARGE PART OF THE POIL POLLUHION HAS SPREAD TO  
INDONESIAN, MALAYSIAN AND SINGAPORE WATER. INDONESIAN EMBASSY  
PROPOSES CONVININGSPECIAL MEETING AMONG INDONESIA, MALAYSIA  
AND SINGAPORE TO DISCUSS JOINT CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION. JOINT  
POLICY ON POSSIBLE LIMITING OF TONNAGE AND DRAFT AND OTHER SAFE-  
TY MEASURES FOR PASSAGE THROUGH MALACCA STRAITS, AND JOINT  
EFFORTS TO FIGHT POLLUTION AND TO ASSESS DAMAGE.  
CRONK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WATER POLLUTION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, SHOWA MARU, OIL SPILLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SINGAP00134  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750011-0428  
**From:** SINGAPORE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750161/aaaacbt1.tel  
**Line Count:** 123  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 SINGAPORE 0117  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OIL LEAKAGE FROM JAPANESE TANKER IN SINGAPORE STRAITS  
**TAGS:** PLOS, EWWT, SENV, TGEN, SN, JA, ID  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006